

PRE

3. To throw to the bottom. A term of chymistry opposed to sublime.

Gold endures a vehement fire long without any change, and after it has been divided by corrosive liquors into invisible parts, yet may presently be precipitated, so as to appear again in its own form. *Grew's Cynol.*

To PRECIPITATE. *v. n.*

1. To fall headlong.

Hadst thou been aught but gossamer feathers,
So many fathom down precipitating,
Thoudst shiver like an egg. *Shakesp. King Lear.*

2. To fall to the bottom as a sediment.

By strong water every metal will precipitate. *Bacon.*

3. To hasten without just preparation.

Neither did the rebels spoil the country, neither on the other side did their forces encrease, which might hasten him to precipitate and assail them. *Bacon.*

PRECIPITATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Steeply falling.

Barcephas faith, it was necessary this paradise should be set at such a height, because the four rivers, had they not fallen to precipitate, could not have had sufficient force to thrust themselves under the great ocean. *Raleigh.*

2. Headlong; hasty; rashly hasty.

When the full stores their ancient bounds disdain,
Precipitate the furious torrent flows;
In vain would speed avoid, or strength oppose. *Prior.*

3. Hasty; violent.

Mr. Gay died of a mortification of the bowels; it was the most precipitate case I ever knew, having cut him off in three days. *Pope to Swift.*

PRECIPITATE. *n. f.* A corrosive medicine made by precipitating mercury.

As the scar separated, I rubb'd the super-excrecence of flesh with the vitriol-stone, or sprinkled it with precipitate. *Wise's Surgery.*

PRECIPITATELY. *adv.* [from precipitate.]

1. Headlong; steeply down.

2. Hastily; in blind hurry.

It may happen to those who vent praise or censure too precipitately, as it did to an English poet, who celebrated a nobleman for erecting Dryden's monument, upon a promise which he forgot, till it was done by another. *Swift.*

Not so bold Arnall; with a weight of scull
Furious he sinks, precipitately dull. *Pope's Dunciad.*

PRECIPITATION. *n. f.* [precipitation, Fr. from precipitate.]

1. The act of throwing headlong.

Let them pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,
That the precipitation might down-drench
Below the beam of fight, yet will I still
Be this to them. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*

2. Violent motion downward.

That could never happen from any other cause than the hurry, precipitation and rapid motion of the water, returning at the end of the deluge, towards the sea. *Woodward.*

3. Tumultuous hurry; blind haste.

Here is none of the hurry and precipitation, none of the blustering and violence, which must have attended those supposititious changes. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

4. In chemistry, Subsidency: contrary to sublimation.

Separation is wrought by precipitation or sublimation; that is, a calling of the parts up or down, which is a kind of attraction. *Bacon.*

The precipitation of the vegetative matter, after the deluge, and the burying it in the strata underneath amongst the sand, was to retrench the luxury of the productions of the earth, which had been so ungratefully abused by its former inhabitants. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

PRECIPITOUS. *adj.* [precipites, Lat.]

1. Headlong; steep.

Monarchy, together with me, could not but be dashed in pieces by such a precipitous fall as they intended. *K. Charles.*

2. Hasty; sudden.

Though the attempts of some have been precipitous, and their enquiries so audacious as to have lost themselves in attempts above humanity, yet have the enquiries of most detected by the way. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

How precious the time is, how precipitous the occasion, how many things to be done in their just season, after once a ground is in order. *Evelyn's Calendar.*

3. Rath; heady.

Thus fram'd for ill, he loos'd our triple hold,
Advice unsafe, precipitous and bold. *Dryden.*

PRECISE. *adj.* [precis, Fr. precisus, Lat.]

1. Exact; strict; nice; having strict and determinate limitations.

Means more durable to preserve the laws of God from oblivion and corruption grew in use, not without precise direction from God himself. *Hooker, b. i.*

PRECISELY. *adv.* [from precise.]

1. Exactly; nicely; accurately.

Doth it follow, that all things in the church, from the greatest to the least, are unholy, which the Lord hath not himself precisely instituted? *Hooker, b. v.*

2. Headlong; hasty; rashly hasty.

The archbishop, too precipitate in pressing the reception of that which he thought a reformation, paid dearly for it. *Clarendon.*

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You'll not bear a letter for me; you stand upon your honour; why, thou unconfinable baleneis, it is as much as I can do to keep the term of mine honour precise. *Shakesp.*

The state hath given you licence to stay on land six weeks, and let it not trouble you if your occasions ask farther time; for the law in this point is not precise. *Bacon.*

Let us descend from this top

Of speculation; for the hour precise

Exacts our parting. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xiii.*

In human actions there are no degrees and precise natural limits described, but a latitude is indulged. *Taylor.*

The reasonings must be precise, though the practice may admit of great latitude. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

The precise difference between a compound and collective idea is this, that a compound idea unites things of a different kind, but a collective, things of the same kind. *Watts.*

Formal; final; solemnly and superstitiously exact.

The railery of the wits in king Charles the Second's reign, upon every thing which they called precise, was carried to so great an extravagance, that it almost put all Christianity out of countenance. *Addison.*

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PRECOCITY. *n. f.* [from precocious.] Ripeness before the time.

Some impute the cause of his fall to a precocity of spirit and valour in him; and that therefore some infectious southern air did blast him. *Howell's Vocal Forest.*

To PRECOGITATE. *v. a.* [precogito, Lat.] To confider or scheme beforehand.

PRECOGNITION. *n. f.* [præ and cognitio, Lat.] Previous knowledge; antecedent examination.

PRECONCEIT. *n. f.* [præ and conceit.] An opinion previously formed.

A thing in reason impossible, which notwithstanding through their misfashioned preconceits, appeared unto them no less certain than if nature had written it in the very foreheads of all the creatures. *Hooker.*

To PRECONCEIVE. *v. a.* [præ and conceive.] To form an opinion beforehand; to imagine beforehand.

In a dead plain the way seemeth the longer, because the eye hath preconceived it shorter than the truth; and the frustrations of that maketh it seem so. *Bacon.*

Fondness of preconceived opinions is not like to render your reports suspect, nor for want of sagacity or care, defective. *Glammill's Scyll.*

The reason why men are so weak in governing is, because most things fall out accidentally, and come not into any compliance with their preconceived ends, but they are forced to comply subsequently. *South's Sermons.*

PRECONCEPTION. *n. f.* [præ and conception.] Opinion previously formed.

Custom with most men prevails more than truth, according to the notions and preconceptions, which it hath formed in our minds, we shape the discourse of reason itself. *Hakewill.*

PRECONTRACT. *n. f.* [præ and contract.] This was formerly accented on the last syllable. A contract previous to another.

He is your husband on a precontract; To bring you thus together, 'tis no sin. *Shakesp.*

To PRECONTRACT. *v. a.* [præ and contract.] To contract or bargain beforehand.